

TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

(Pursuant to a Resolution of the House of Representatives of the 19th inst.)

A COPY OF THE THREE ARTICLES MARKED A,

REFERRED TO IN THE

Protocol of the Third Conference

OF THE AMERICAN AND BRITISHplenipotentiaries, ON THE FIFTH OF FEBRUARY, 1824.

DECEMBER 22, 1826.

Read, and laid upon the table.

WASHINGTON :

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1826.

WASHINGTON, 22d December, 1826.

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

I communicate to the House of Representatives a Report from the Secretary of State, with a copy of the three Articles, marked A, requested by the resolution of the House, of the 19th instant. The third of those articles relating to a subject upon which the negotiation between the two Governments is yet open, the communication of all the other documents relating to it, is reserved to a future period, when it may be closed.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

The Secretary of State, to whom the President has referred the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 19th instant, requesting him to furnish the House with "a copy of the three articles" (marked A,) referred to in the protocol of the third conference of "the American and British Plenipotentiaries on the 5th of February, 1824," has the honor to report, herewith, a copy of the three articles requested. The two first of those articles relate only to the British colonial trade, and it was a clerical omission that they were not among the other documents, relating to that subject, communicated by the President to Congress at the commencement of the present session. The third article relates to another subject, which is still under negotiation between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, and the propriety is therefore submitted, of its being communicated, at this time, to the House of Representatives. All which is respectfully submitted.

H. CLAY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, 21st Dec. 1826.

A.

I. Whereas by the trade as it now exists under the respective laws and regulations of the two high contracting parties, between certain enumerated ports of his Britannic Majesty's Colonies in America and the West Indies, and the ports of the United States, discriminating duties and charges are reciprocally imposed and levied upon the vessels and cargoes of each nation in the ports of the other as aforesaid; and whereas it is the desire of the contracting parties, for the reciprocal advantage of their subjects and citizens, to abolish all such discriminating duties and charges: it is therefore agreed that upon the vessels of the United States admitted by law into all and every one of his Britannic Majesty's Colonial ports, as aforesaid, and upon any goods, wares, and merchandise, lawfully imported therein in the said vessels, no other or higher duties of tonnage or impost, and no other charges of any kind, shall be levied or exacted than upon British vessels, including all vessels of the colonies themselves; or upon the like goods, wares, or merchandise, imported into the said Colonial ports from any other port or place, whatever, including Great Britain and the Colonial Ports themselves: and that upon the vessels of Great Britain admitted by law into all and every one of the ports of the United States, and upon any goods, wares, and merchandise, lawfully imported therein in the said vessels, no other or higher duties of tonnage or impost, and no other charges of any kind, shall be levied or exacted, than upon vessels of the United States, including vessels of each and every one of the said States, or upon the like goods, wares, or mer-

chandise, imported into the United States from any other port or place, whatever.

II. For the more perfect fulfilment of the intentions of the high contracting parties, as expressed in the foregoing article, it is agreed, that the trade to which it has reference shall continue on the footing upon which it now stands by the laws and regulations of the two countries respectively, with the exception of the removal by Great Britain of the duties specified in the Schedule C. of the act of Parliament, passed on the twenty-fourth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-two, in the third year of his present Majesty's reign, chapter forty-four; and those specified in Schedule B. of the act of Parliament passed on the fifth day of August in the same year and reign, chapter one hundred and nineteen, and of the removal, by the United States, of all additional duties of tonnage, in the light of foreign tonnage duty, and of all additional duties of impost, in the light of foreign impost, existing against British vessels and merchandise coming to the United States, from any of the Colonial ports aforesaid; and the high contracting parties pledge themselves to remove reciprocally, the duties herein recapitulated, as well as all other discriminating duties and charges, of whatever kind they may be, intending by this and the foregoing article to be removed; it being the desire and intention of the parties to place the aforesaid trade upon a footing of perfect equality in all respects.

III. It is agreed, by the high contracting parties, that the navigation of the river St. Lawrence shall be, at all times, free to the citizens of the United States, as to the subjects of Great Britain, in its whole breadth and length to and from the sea, and that the vessels belonging to either party shall not be stopped, visited, or subjected to any let, impediment, or hindrance, whatsoever, by the other; nor shall they be liable to the payment of any duty whatever, for this right of passage on the said river. But respecting such moderate and reasonable tolls as either party may claim and appear entitled to, the high contracting parties agree to treat at a future day, that the principles regulating the same may be adjusted to mutual satisfaction.

